

Message Text

SECRET

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56

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 NSC-05 SAM-01 ERDA-05 MC-02

CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15

PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 /073 W

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R 161117Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6405

INFO USMISSION NATO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USCINCEUR

USDOCOSOUTH

USLOSACLANT

USNMR SHAPE

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

S E C R E T MADRID 5473

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, NATO, SP

SUBJECT: SPAIN AND NATO

REF: STATE 171077

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1. TO INITIATE THE ACTION PROGRAM OUTLINED IN THE REFERENCED

TELEGRAM, I TALKED INFORMALLY AND IN GENERAL TERMS ON JULY 15 WITH SPANISH AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE ROVIRA (WHO IS CHARGED WITH ALL ASPECTS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW TREATY). I PROVIDED HIM ORALLY WITH SEVERAL EXAMPLES OF THE KIND OF SHORT-TERM MEASURES WHICH, IN OUR VIEW, MIGHT BE USEFUL TO BEGIN TO CREATE A CERTAIN MOMENTUM AND SOUGHT, THROUGH HIM, TO BEGIN TO PIN DOWN HOW WE MIGHT BEST PROCEED.

2. ROVIRA WILL BE SEEING THE NEW FOREIGN MINISTER (OREJA) TOMORROW AND WILL RAISE THIS SUBJECT WITH HIM. I WILL DO THE SAME WHEN I SEE OREJA NEXT, EITHER IN THE COMING WEEK OR AS SOON THEREAFTER AS POSSIBLE.

3. COMMENTING MORE GENERALLY ON THE PROSPECTS FOR SPANISH AFFILIATION WITH NATO, ROVIRA REVEALED THAT LAST SUMMER, DURING THE BASE NEGOTIATIONS, THE SPANISH NATIONAL DEFENSE COUNCIL HAD REACTED FAVORABLY TO A MILITARY STUDY ON THE MEMBERSHIP QUESTION, BUT MATTERS HAD NOT PROGRESSED BEYOND THAT TO ANY CONSIDERATION AT THE CABINET LEVEL. WITH ALL THE RECENT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS, ROVIRA SAID, IT WAS HARD TO TELL EXACTLY WHAT THE GOVT'S ATTITUDE WOULD BE, ALTHOUGH THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF THE GOVT'S DEDICATION TO CLOSE FRIENDSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES.

4. QUITE BY COINCIDENCE THERE ALSO APPEARED IN YESTERDAY'S EDITION OF THE MADRID DAILY "ABC" AN ARTICLE FROM THAT PAPER'S CORRESPONDENT IN BRUSSELS, ATTRIBUTING TO DIPLOMATIC SOURCES CLOSE TO THE SEAT OF THE ALLIANCE THE COMMENT THAT "SPAIN AND NATO ARE MOVING TOWARD A STUDY AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON THE MILITARY SITUATION OF BOTH PARTIES." WE WILL NEED TO PRESERVE CONFIDENTIALITY IN OUR EFFORTS TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE IF WE ARE TO AVOID THE KIND OF PRESS SPECULATION WHICH CAN MAKE THE PROGRESS WE SEEK MORE DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN.

STABLER

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